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July 20th, 1824, having been spared becoming a witness of the growth of Royalism under Charles X., successor to Ludwig XVIII. His remains were interred in the cemetery of Père.Lachaise.

Biran's philosophical works were edited by Cousin, and exercised a powerful influence upon those Frenchmen who were satisfied neither by the sensualistic and materialistic schools nor the other extreme of the Church. He exercised a powerful influence on Schopenhauer, and may be regarded as the intermediate link between Condillac and spiritualism. The author of the present monograph, Alfred Kùhtmann, selects the essential points of Biran's philosophy, describing the genesis of his philosophy in its relations to prior philosophers, pointing out at the same time similar theories among modern thinkers, such as Herbert Spencer, Alexander Bain, Schopenhauer, and Wilhelm Wundt. He might have added that Biran failed in his main ideal of philosophical thought. He nowhere analysed the nature of the will and his conception of the *effort voulu* remains a hazy abstraction. If he had taken one step further in the investigation of the will, he might have come to the conclusion that each definite *effort voulu* derives its character from a definite situation, given by antecedents and surrounding conditions, and he might then have modified his view that psychology is not benefited by physiology. P. C.

RENÉ DESCARTES: MEDITATIONES DE PRIMA PHILOSOPHIA. Nach der Pariser Originalausgabe und der ersten französischen Uebersetzung mit Anmerkungen neu herausgegeben. Von Dr. C. Güttler, a. o. Professor in the University of Munich. Munich: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. 1901. Pages, iv, 250.

Students of philosophy are greatly indebted to Dr. C. Güttler, professor in the University of Munich, for the care and exactitude which he has bestowed upon his comparative edition of the Latin and French texts of Descartes's *Meditations*. While lecturing upon this great work the necessity of an adequate edition made itself strongly felt. Important matter is lacking in all the editions now in use, and by none of them was the opportunity afforded of comparing the Latin original with the first French translation. Furthermore, the original edition of 1641 had become very scarce, and was not to be found in any of the great German libraries. Dr. Güttler was accordingly compelled to make an accurate transcription of the Latin text of the copy in the National Library at Paris, by the side of which he has placed a reprint of the first French translation in modern orthography. Dr. Güttler has supplied to his work, which is typographically clear and attractive, a brief but excellent historical introduction, and he has also had the matter contained on the title-pages of the editions of 1641 and 1647 reprinted for his book. It is, in view of the rareness of these works, too bad that the idea did not occur to him of having photographic reproductions made of these title-pages. The author has added annotations to each Meditation, tables of variants, etc. Descartes's letter

of dedication to the Sorbonne, his preface to the reader, etc., are also contained in this volume as distinguished from other existing editions. μ.

DIX ANNÉES DE PHILOSOPHIE : ÉTUDES CRITIQUES SUR LES PRINCIPAUX TRAVAUX
PUBLIÉS DE 1891 A 1900. Par *Lucien Arréat*. Paris : Félix Alcan, Éditeur,
108 Boulevard Saint-Germain. 1901. Pages, 184. Price, 2 francs 50.

The readers of *The Monist* who have followed the reports upon the philosophical literature of France by M. Lucien Arréat for the eleven years since this magazine was first established will be pleased to learn that our distinguished French critic has recently written a small work in which he has collected and condensed his critical reflexions upon the philosophy of the last decade. In a brief preface, M. Arréat defines clearly what he understands by philosophy ; his view is in many points in harmony with the doctrines expounded in *The Monist*; he conceives philosophy to be the complement of science,—an essential constituent of science. Science is made up of *empirical laws* and *rational hypotheses*. Whatever is conjectural in science, whatever is non-experiential, partakes of a philosophical character ; science always culminates in philosophy. On the basis of this idea, he considers the collateral scientific and metaphysical development of sociology, psychology, esthetics, morals, and religion. Concise and economic in the extreme, his expositions give the gist of all that has been thought in France upon these great subjects, and furnish in each department references to the best and soundest books in which the further study and investigation of these departments may be prosecuted. M. Arréat, by his simple yet elegant analyses, has made some of the most difficult theories of modern French thought intelligible, and the reading world is under deep obligations to him for the pains which he has taken for its enlightenment. μ.

L'ANNÉE BIOLOGIQUE. Comptes rendus annuels des travaux de biologie générale
publiés sous la direction de Yves Delage, Professeur a la Sorbonne. Avec
la collaboration d'un Comité de Rédacteurs. Quatrième Année 1898. Paris :
Schleicher Frères, Éditeurs, 15, rue des Saints-Pères. 1900. Pages, xxxi,
847.

The present number of the *Année biologique* is the fourth volume of this monumental index of biological literature, and carries the compilation to the end of the year 1898. Its size is about the same as that for the year 1897, so that it would seem from the respective magnitudes of the two reports that literary production in the field of biological inquiry, prodigious as it is, had not appreciably increased over the year 1897. The sub-headings are twenty in number, running from the "Cell," "Fecundation," "Parthenogenesis," etc., through "Morphology," "Hereditry," "Variation," and the "Origin of Species," to "Nervous Systems and Mental Functions," "General Theories," etc. The collaborators of this vast compilation number fifty-eight, and represent all the countries of the world engaged in